

*AS, CMX*  
22. (New) The welding method, in accordance with Claim 10,  
further comprising the steps of:

heating at least the welded part after welding and flowing a  
gas containing fluorine gas through the interior of said parts.

23. (New) The welding method, in accordance with Claim 14,  
further comprising the steps of:

heating at least the welded part after welding and flowing a  
gas containing fluorine gas through the interior of said parts.

24. (New) A welded product, produced in accordance with the  
welding method of Claim 21.

25. (New) A welded product, produced in accordance with the  
welding method of Claim 22.

26. (New) A welded product, produced in accordance with the  
welding method of Claim 23.

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IN THE ABSTRACT

Please substitute the abstract attached hereto for the  
abstract presently on file.

REMARKS

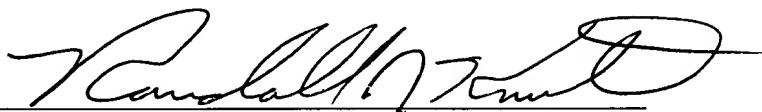
Applicant submits herewith a substitute abstract for the  
abstract currently on file to place to abstract in proper U.S.  
form. No new matter has been added.

5      Applicant has amended the Claims to place the Claims in  
proper U.S. form.

In addition, applicant has rewritten the Claims to remove  
the multiple dependent Claims.

If the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (219) 485-6001.

Respectfully submitted,

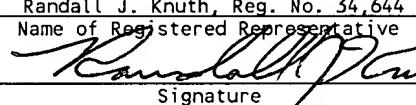
  
Randall J. Knuth  
Registration No. 34,644

RJK/jrw  
Enc: Clean Specification  
Paragraph  
Clean Claims  
Replacement Abstract  
Return Postcard

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, DC 20231, on: December 27, 2000.

Randall J. Knuth, Reg. No. 34,644  
Name of Registered Representative  
  
Signature  
December 27, 2000  
Date